Only Your Hero

by Nishino Kihara

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IMAGE
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QUALITY
Ninjamuffin, Yayumi (proofread) |
Kaito (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall review)

第3回ARIAコミックグランプリ佳作受賞！
RECEIVED AN HONOURABLE MENTION IN THE THIRD ARIA COMICS GRAND PRIX!

好きな人の前では
いっぱい恥をかこう。
FEEL EMBARRASSED IN FRONT OF THE ONE YOU LOVE.

草食系男子のラブ・ストーリー
A HERBIVORE'S LOVE STORY.

オンリー・ユア・ヒーロー!!
Only Your Hero

西ノ木はら
NISHINO KIHARA

Note: Herbivore (sousshokukei) is a term for someone who tends to be quite passive and calm

THE FEELING THAT
THE COLOUR OF THE WORLD
WHOA!
STOP FUCKING HERE!
GET AWAY FROM HERE!
IS CHANGING.
THIS WAY!
WE'LL BE OKAY IN HERE.

THIS IS PROBABLY THE UNLUCKIEST ROMANCE EVER.

THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO EXISTING INDIVIDUALS, EVENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

SITTING NEXT TO ME IS
THE FIRST SEAT CHANGE IN MY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE...
CLATTER
AHH.
THANK YOU, GOD OF SEAT CHANGES!
GLOW
GLOW
WHOOOA!
HER HAIR IS ALWAYS SO BEAUTIFUL!
MY FIRST LOVE (AND PRESENT LOVE),
YOBIKO SENNAKI!
I HOPE... WE'LL GET ON WELL SITTING NEXT TO EACH OTHER.
CLATTER
SE...
SENNAKI.

INSTANT KILL.
STAB
SMILE
I HAVEN'T SAT NEXT TO YOU SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
I HOPE SO TOO!
FROM NOW ON, I'M SURE THAT...
THUMP THUMP THUMP
Heartbeat
THAT SMILE...! IT HASN'T FADED, EVEN AFTER TEN YEARS...!
I'VE MADE SOME LUNCH FOR YOU, SOUSUKE ♡
Will you eat it?
I FORGOT MY TEXTBOOK
CAN I MOVE MY DESK NEXT TO YOURS?
I...
SOU SURE, I...
I LIKE YOU TOO!
LIKE THAT! LIKE THAT! AS IF IT'D HAPPEN!
SOUSUKE

HEY SOUSUKE
TUG
AH.
HUH?!
YES?!
THUMP
DO YOU REMEMBER THE "PLAY PARK"?
THE ONE WHERE WE USED TO HIDE A LOT BEFORE...
!
AH~ YES, I REMEM-BER!
THE PARK WITH A DOME!
We used to shelter from the rain a lot.
THAT BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES
IT'S BEEN A WHILE I'D LIKE TO GO THERE AGAIN
THAT PARK

DING DONG
DING DONG
CHATTER
HEY DO THE CLEAN-UP!
HOW ABOUT WE STOP BY SOME-WHERE?
OKAY LET'S GO HOME!
HUH?
I SEE
I didn't know
AND HOUSES WERE BUILT THERE
IT WAS DEMO-LISHED
Squeeze
EVEN THOUGH THAT PLACE HOLDS A LOT OF MEMORIES FOR ME
DING DONG
DING DONG
HUH?
WHERE SHOULD I HIDE NOW?
NO-THING
SEE YOU LATER
Ah
SENNAKI

SENNA
WAAH!
SOU-SUKE--
WE'RE GOING TO KARAOKE WANNA COME?
YOU'LL COME RIGHT?
HUH?
NO
I...
--ALL THAT FUSS MADE ME
LOSE SIGHT OF HER--

BUT...
THAT INJURY...
I turned down the invitation to karaoke too...
SO CREEPY...
SO WHY AM I BEHAVING LIKE A STALKER?
I COULD JUST ASK HER ABOUT HER INJURIES AT SCHOOL TOMORROW.
THE PATH TO SENNAKI'S HOUSE

AND HURT ALL OVER.
SHE'S ALWAYS GOTTEN PECKED AT BY BIRDS
WHEN SHE PLAYED OUTSIDE
BIRDS WOULD OFTEN GATHER AROUND SENNAKI'S HEAD.

I HELPED HER DURING THOSE TIMES.
STOP THAT, YOU CROWS!
GO AWAY!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES
HEHE
WHY DO YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'RE GOING TO CRY?
PAT PAT
UH
IT'S PROB-ABLY... BECAUSE MY HAIR
IS AN UNUSUAL COLOUR!
I'M COM-PLETELY FINE

THANK YOU
FOR PROTECTING ME
BUT...
HEHE
YEAH..
HEHE
WHEN YOSIKO-CHAN IS AROUND
THE CROWS COME
LET'S GO OVER THERE
I DON'T WANT TO GET HURT
YEAH

THERE WEREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO PROTECT YOBIKO.
SILENCE
.....
I'M GOING TO PROTECT YOU, SENNARI!
HUH?!
I DON'T WANT TO.
YOU CAN GO WITH THE OTHERS.
..SO U-SUKE.
IT CAN'T BE FUN PLAYING WITH ME ALL THE TIME..
...HMM?
IT REALLY IS A MIRACLE THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE HER AGAIN IN HIGH SCHOOL...!
ALTHOUGH I SAID THAT,
I LOST CONTACT WITH HER WHEN I STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL..

FLAP
I'm sad it's gone
THE PLACE... WHERE I HAD MY FIRST LOVE...
HOUSES REALLY WERE BUILT THERE...

CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
THUMP
!

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY...?
CROWS...
NO WAY...

CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW

SENNAKI?!
DASH
CAW
CAW

CLANG
!!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
SENNAKI!

WHOOSH!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

...SHE WAS CRYING.
THUMP
I KNEW IT. EVEN NOW, SHE'S STILL RUNNING AWAY ALONE.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SHE...
OF COURSE. SHE MUST BE SCARED.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN ALONE SINCE THEN...SHE CAN'T BE OKAY.

SEN-NAKI
SE...
I WANT TO HELP HER AGAIN.
HAVE YOU GOT A MOMENT?
I JUST WANT TO...
TALK
SOUSUKE
SURE

THUMP
HUH
YOU SAW ME GETTING PECKED AT BY THE CROWS
YOU CAME TO ASK ABOUT YESTERDAY RIGHT?
I I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN HURT
HEHE
HEHE
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
I'M SORRY
YES
T-THE WEATHER IS GREAT! DO YOU COME TO THE ROOF OFTEN?
YES WHEN THE WEATHER IS GOOD
UMM... UMM...
I SEE
SQUEEZE
I'M DOING AS WELL AS I CAN SO DON'T WORRY
A LITTLE
BUT I'M USED TO IT
I WONDER IF SHE ALWAYS SMILED LIKE THAT TO TRY AND MAKE SURE I WOULDN'T WORRY

I...
IF POSSIBLE I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT...
WELL
UMM
I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE IN DANGER
UMM
MUMBLE MUMBLE
UMM WHAT IS IT? I CAN'T QUITE HEAR YOU
UH...
UMM
A-AM I
UNRELIABLE AFTER ALL?
MAYBE I'M CAUSING
TROUBLE
HUH?
AH
NO!
HAHA. WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT? UMM...
THANK YOU
YOU'RE NOT CAUSING ANY TROUBLE
BUT
THIS IS MY PROBLEM

LUNCH BREAK WILL BE OVER SOON
LET'S GO BACK TO THE CLASS-ROOM
OKAY
.....
EVEN THOUGH I HAD THE THINGS I WANTED TO SAY ALL SORTED OUT—
WHEN I WAS WITH SENNAKI, THEY ALL DISAPPEARED! DAMN IT!
WELL...
WE SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER, SO I CAN TALK TO HER AFTER CLASS...
YEAH...
uhh

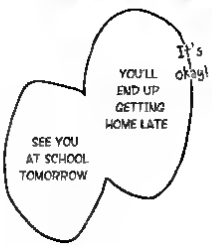
TAP TAP
HEY
HEY SOUSUKE?
SIXTH PERIOD IS ALREADY OVER WAKE UP
BLINK
. . .
WHOOSH
S-SURE Be sure to!
THANKS! SEE YA!
AH! YOU'RE RIGHT!
She's gone!
CLATTER
HUH
HUH?!
RAN ALL THE WAY
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT! AN IDIOT!
I WAS PLANNING ON WALKING HOME WITH YOSHIKO TODAY!

Hmm... should I text her? What should I do...?
SHE COULDN'T HAVE GONE THAT FAR YET, RIGHT...?
flip
.....
step
I'VE GOT TO TELL HER PROPERLY
TO SEE SENNAKI LOOK LIKE THAT.
I DON'T WANT
THAT I WANT TO PROTECT HER BECAUSE I LIKE HER
STOP
OH SOUSUKE?

bump into her!
Waah! I really did
SENNAKI?!
What?
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I JUST STOPPED BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE
WHAT ABOUT YOUR HOUSE? YOUR HOUSE IS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION
Ju...
WELL...
UHM...I... I JUST THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LITTLE WALK...!
A WALK?
YES
I LOOK SO STUPID...!
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO AT HOME!
Ah.
ARE YOU GOING HOME NOW, SENNAKI?
YES I AM
.....

I WAS JOKING
HA HA
NO, NO! THAT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE!
FOLLOW
Well yesterday...
DID YOU FOLLOW ME YESTERDAY TOO?

SORRY YOU ENDED UP WALKING ME HOME
JUST HERE IS FINE
THANK YOU


SEE YOU AT SCHOOL TOMORROW
YOU'LL END UP GETTING HOME LATE
It's okay!

ANYWAY ISN'T YOUR HOUSE STILL QUITE FAR AWAY?
HUH...IT WAS NO TROUBLE

GOODBYE

PUSH
CAW
.....
SOU-SUKE?!
!!
RUN!
CAW
WHAM
CAW
DAMN YOU...!
CAW
SOU-SUKE!!

IT'S OKAY!
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT ALONE!
There's too many of them!
COME ON!
RUN FOR IT!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
She's so small and cute...
Th...
THOSE CROWS JUST DON'T GIVE UP...
WE RAN INTO A PHONE BOX...
BUT IT'S SO SMALL! WE'RE TOO CLOSE!
C-C-C...
HEY...W-WE'RE ALONE IN A SECRET PLACE...!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO CONFESS...!
What should I say?!
GASP

HUH...DOES SHE KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING? WAS IT WRITTEN ON MY FACE?
THUMP THUMP THUMP
You surprised me
THUMP THUMP THUMP
W-WHAT IS IT?
AHAHA
SORRY SORRY

IS N-NOW THE RIGHT TIME...?
HEHE
AHA HA HA!
SHOCK
?!

YOU GOT HURT
DIDN'T YOU?
SQUEEZE
THUMP

HUH
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF
BEING CHASED BY CROWS AS FUN BEFORE
HEHE
HEHE

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET HURT
MAYBE I'D ALWAYS WANTED YOU TO HELP ME
BUT
IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS FOR YOU
BUT I THINK THAT
YOUR HAIR IS PRETTY...
I WANT YOU TO KEEP IT THAT WAY
UMM...
.....

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I WANT YOU TO RELY ON ME MORE
I...
I WANT TO
PROTECT YOU

IN THE END...
SURPRISE
GOOD MORNING SOUSUKE
MORN-ING
WHY IS YOUR FACE ALL RED?
hehe
hehe
I'D KEPT MY BANGS LONG BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO GET PECKED AT.
BUT YOU SAID YOU'D PROTECT ME SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE OKAY TO CUT THEM
YOU LOOK CUTE, SENNAKI!
IT'S SO CUTE UGH
THUD
THUD
WHOA

I DIDN'T GET TO MAKE MY ALL-IMPORTANT CONFESSION.
SEN-NAKI
UMM
BLUSH
YOU LOOK NICE
THANK YOU!
BUT I FEEL AS IF... MY LOVE WILL BE REQUITED.
HEY WHY ARE YOU GRINNING SOUSUKE? IT'S CREEPY
SO CUTE!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU GUYS!
SENNAKI~ FORGET ABOUT THIS GUY AND PICK ME INSTEAD ♡
NO WAY.
END
HE FAILED AT...BEING MORE THAN JUST A FRIEND
PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT WORK BY NISHINO KYAOA-SAN!